Virginia Tobacco Growers' Association, Guntur, has alleged that certain irregularities took place during the Karnataka auctions of 2000. Enquiries conducted by the Tobacco Board have not revealed any evidence of irregularities by Board officials.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of flowers

†3081. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme prepared by Government for floral-trade in the country;

(b) the quantity of flowers exported to various countries during the year 2000-2001 till July, 2001 with country-wise details;

(c) the total foreign exchange earned through the export of these flowers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote the export of flowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The marketing of agro products including flowers is *inter alia*, facilitated through regulated agricultural produce marketing committees, cooperative marketing committees, etc. Government is further encouraging establishment of Flower Auction Centres in potential flower growing States which is expected to assist in promoting the floriculture trade in the country and abroad. Government has recently approved a proposal for financial assistance to the Government of Karnataka for setting up a Flower Auction Centre in Bangalore.

(b) and (c) The quantity of flowers exported is not reflected in a uniform unit. The total foreign exchange earned from export of flowers including dried flowers during the year 2000-2001 and till May 2001 for which data is available is as follows:—

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2000-2001	Rs. 132.64 crores
2001-2002 (till May 2001)	Rs. 15.86 crores

Source: APEDA, New Delhi and DGCI&S, Calcutta.

The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India—Monthly/Annual Bulletins published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are kept in the Parliament Library.

(d) Government has been taking various measures to boost exports of flowers. Some of the steps taken to enhance production and encourage exports of flowers include:—

(i) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(ii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs, flowers shows and exhibitions;

(iii) Setting up walk-in-type cold storages and integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as floriculture and horticulture products; such facilities have been set up at Guwahati, Mumbai and Calcutta Airports. Integrated cold storage and cargo handling facilities have been set up at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi, Bangalore Hyderabad, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram Airports. An Integrated Cargo handling Centre for Perishables is being set up at Mumbai International Airport.

(iv) providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport, etc.

(v) Grant of air freight subsidy on exports of floriculture products.

(vi) Setting up of Flower Auction Centres.

Norms for inspection of cars

3082. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign car manufacturers have urged Government not to insist on testing of Completely Built Unit (CBU) cars;

(b) the details of present norms/standard of inspection for such cars; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in affirmative, the names of the companies who have approached and Government's reaction on their request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. A representation has been received from a car manufacturer requesting to exempt import of Completely Built Unit (CBU) cars imported under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme from all the conditions regarding testing/inspection of cars. The firm has also requested that the condition of homologation should be exempted on small volume import of cars.

As per the present regulations import of new cars in India is subject to compliance of the vehicle with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the rules made thereunder. The Vehicles shall also have a speedometer indicating the speed in Kilometer per hour, have right hand steering and controls, have photometry of the headlamps to "suit keep left" traffic and are imported from the country of manufacture. In addition the vehicles should also comply with rule 126 and 126A of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), 1989. The importer shall also be responsible for all the provisions assigned to the manufacturer as per rules 122 and 138 of CMVR and for issuing Form 22, as per provisions of CMVR.

After removal of quantitative restrictions, specific conditions like testing, homologation etc. have been imposed on import of